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Locals share views about war

■ Most at SLO meeting voiced opposition to war in the Gulf

By Darrell C. Hallenbrook
Staff Writer



In the hope that elected officials would know how local citizens felt about the threat of war in the Persian Gulf, a public forum was held at the San Luis Obispo Public Library Sunday afternoon.

Opening the forum was Supervisor David Blakely, who addressed the audience with his concerns and goals for the forum.

The crisis in the gulf, he said, could turn into a psychic wound and divide the community and the nation.

Blakely said this crisis will force all citizens to take a side, and "the healing process should begin at home before the war starts," he said.

"We all recognize that Saddam Hussein must be stopped one way or another," he said. "It's only the means of stopping him that we seem to differ on. We are all in this together."

During Blakely's opening statement, he read a letter

ted not being at the forum; he was attending congressional hearings and debates. He wrote that "all aggression by one nation must be deterred."

"The unified strategy by the United States and the world community to bring pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait through sanctions and diplomatic efforts is correct and should be maintained," the letter said.

Panetta also said that it is unfortunate that President Bush personalized the dispute with Saddam Hussein, increased the deployment of troops and reduced the available resolutions of the crisis to war or surrender.

"War must be seen only as the last resort when all else has failed," Panetta's letter said.

City Councilmember Peg Pinard also addressed the crowd, questioning the wisdom and motives of the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf.

She also talked about her experience in the Philippines during the Vietnam War and conveyed her sentiments from seeing the bodies of U.S. ser-

the founder of the Alternative Transportation Task Force, said, "Violence doesn't justify violence," and added that "our government is in no condition to be a policeman."

Although most of the speakers at the forum called for a peaceful solution to the

Gulf crisis, there were a handful of people who believed the United States should use violence against Iraq, because they see Hussein as an Adolf Hitler of sorts.

They said that if Hussein is not controlled now, he could commit humanitarian crimes against innocent people, like Hitler did against millions of Jews in World War II.

Kelly VanNoord, a Cal Poly graphic communication senior, attended the forum and said she now understands the complexity of the Gulf crisis more fully, especially when she considers the opposing views expressed through the media and local activist groups.

"I am a registered democrat, yet essentially a pacifist," she said, "and (I) don't feel that we, as human beings, have the

False health rumors hurt local restaurant

■ Tacos Acapulco owner refutes food-illness claims; city officials say rumors unfounded

By Anne Buila
Staff Writer

On any Friday night, many Cal Poly students can be found waiting in line at Tacos Acapulco in San Luis Obispo.

Some are regulars, some are first-time customers and many come after a night of drinking or work. Despite its popularity, chances are that somebody in line has heard rumors of someone getting sick after leaving Tacos Acapulco.

"We served over a million people last year," said Albert Her-

nandez, owner of Tacos Acapulco. "Two thousand people a day eat at my restaurants ... I challenge anybody, doctors, lawyers, anybody — to prove that I'm making anybody sick."

Last year, however, 33 people claimed just that. They called the San Luis Obispo Health Department to report that they were sick and that they had eaten at Tacos Acapulco.

"We have never been able to prove anything," said Steve
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Poly's soil science team triumphs in judging meet

By Meredith Rehrman
Staff Writer

Cal Poly soil science students won four of the top seven places in individual competition to lead the university's team to a first place finish in the Pacific Southwest Intercollegiate Soil Judging Contest.

The 15th annual event, held on a farm in rural Arizona, drew three teams from across California and the Southwest, including New Mexico State University and the University of Arizona, which placed second and third, respectively.

Brent Hallock, soil science professor and coach of the Cal Poly